

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 01125 082335Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 EUR-12 INR-10 SP-02
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R 081135Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8230
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 1125

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN
SUBJ: FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO KALPAKKAM NUCLEAR FACILITY

JEF: A) STATE 113295 B) NEW DELHI 7171

CONGEN DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTTEL WITH IAEC CHAIRMAN
SETHNA TODAY. HE CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH ASSISTANCE AT
KALPAKKAM NUCLEAR FACILITY IS CONFINED TO THE FAST
BREEDER TEST REACTOR THERE AND THAT FRANCE HAS NOT
GIVEN ANY ASSISTANCE FOR FUEL REPROCESSING. THE KALPAKKAM
REACTOR RESEARCH CENTER CONTAINS A REPROCESSING LABORATORY
WHERE SOME R&D WORK IS DONE BUT THE FRENCH HAVE NOT ASSISTED
IN THIS ACTIVITY. SETHNA AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
IS ACCURATE AND WOULD CAUSE NO DIFFICULTY FOR THE IAEC IF
RELEASED BY DEPARTMENT.

QUOTE:

INDIA'S FAST BREEDER TEST REACTOR AT KALPAKKAM
IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU IS BEING BUILT FROM AN
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INDIGENOUS DESIGN AND A LARGE NUMBER OF KEY
COMPONENTS ARE BEING MANUFACTURED LOCALLY. FRANCE
IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PROJECT.
FOR INSTANCE, TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE INDIAN
MANUFACTURER'S TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS WERE PRO-
VIDED IN FRANCE.

INDIA HAS ONLY TWO FUEL REPROCESSING PLANTS; ONE IS
LOCATED AT THE BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE AT
TROMBAY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BOMBAY AND THE OTHER AT
TARAPUR, NEAR THE GE-BUILD POWER REACTORS IN THE
STATE OF MAHARASHTRA. BOTH OF THESE REPROCESSING
PLANTS WERE BUILT BY INDIA WITHOUT FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO NEED FOR
INDIA TO SEEK FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR ANOTHER
REPROCESSING PLANT IF REQUIRED FOR THE MADRAS ATOMIC
POWER REACTORS (NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION) OR FOR THE
PLANNED FAST BREEDER POWER REACTORS.
UNQUOTE.
COURTNEY

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